

SPHIT OF THE PRESS.

Editorial Opinions of the Leading Journals upon Current Topics—Compiled Every Day for the Evening Telegraph.

THE COLORED RACE IN POLITICS.

From the N. Y. Tribune. The affair of the young colored cadets at West Point is important, because it shows a want of judgment in the leaders of the colored race. There is, as we all know, existing through great numbers of persons in this country a profound prejudice against the negroes, and a belief that they have neither character nor talent sufficient for the new political position conferred on them through the agency of the Republican party.

So far as we have been able to judge, the colored men who have generally been put forward in political life were men of good sense and intelligence, and of great masses of office men of decided talent. The only exception which has been marked was in regard to some of the colored delegates in the South Carolina Assembly. But even the ignorance of these latter may have been exaggerated, and in a State where so few whites are in amicable relations with the blacks, and they themselves have been so depressed, it was not natural to expect either many white representatives, or many highly intelligent black representatives, of the colored population.

In the case of the two colored cadets, it would appear that no unfairness or prejudice was shown toward them. On the contrary, they were better treated by the other cadets as new comers than white boys are. No hostility or prejudice was manifested, as indeed it would be a lasting disgrace to a national military school, if any were; but, unfortunately, one of the lads was badly qualified (as happens to many white youths), and the other, though sufficiently prepared intellectually, was unsuited physically to the severe training of the school, and both were very properly rejected.

We need not say that to the Republican party it will be the logical sequence of their position, as it will be their good fortune, to support all just claims of the colored race. Their efforts have primarily been the means of breaking their chains; through them they have received the inestimable privilege of suffrage, and now their votes will naturally fall on the Republican side. Without any demagogic influence, the party now in power, if they conduct themselves wisely, will receive, as a natural thing, the important colored vote of the country.

With a lower population, whether white or black, tradition in politics and history has an overwhelming force. No black man could possibly vote long with the party whose members had mobbed him in the North, and enslaved him or defended his enslavement in the South. Whatever the new Democratic "friends of the negro" might promise, he could not but always remember that the party which had tried to mitigate his wrongs in slavery, which had struggled to prevent that career being carried to new Territories, which had finally, at fearful cost, broken his fetters, and at length made him an American citizen, was the Republican party.

THE NATURALIZATION BILL. From the N. Y. Tribune. The fear which we expressed for the fate of the Naturalization bill has been very nearly realized. It has been rescued from utter failure, but only the form with little force remains to it.

nately, that is about all it does do, none of the much-needed legislation to enforce the law being provided. The punishment, it is true, is fixed at a fine of such dimensions and imprisonment of such severity that it ought to deter reasonable rascals, but New York "repeaters" and New York judges would laugh at the provisions as at idle threats for the false personation of persons by applicants for naturalization papers or by those who vouch for them, and for the forgery or fraudulent use of certificates of naturalization; but they are merely definitions of crime, and will have no binding force on the professional politicians of this and other cities where naturalization frauds are frequent.

THE RIGHTS OF NATURALIZED CITIZENS ABROAD. From the N. Y. Sun. On the 13th of April last, a treaty was negotiated at London between Mr. Motley, the Ambassador of the United States, and Earl Clarendon, the British Secretary for Foreign Affairs, by which Great Britain relinquishes forever the old British doctrine of citizenship, and recognizes fully the right of any British subject to abandon allegiance to the British crown, and become a full citizen of the republic.

THE NATURALIZATION BILL. From the N. Y. Tribune. President Grant is as uncomfortable as a fish out of water. Monday afternoon, soon after his return from his trout excursion in Pennsylvania with Simon Cameron, he sent to Congress an ill-written message on Cuba, in which he disclosed his unhappy recollections of the unhappy report of General Banks on our relations to the civil war in that island.

When the message had been read in the House, General Banks, against whom it was directed, rose in his place and moved that it be laid on the table and printed. But Mr. Judd, a friend of the President, who did not wish the message stifled in that manner, moved that it be referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs. General Banks opposed this motion, saying that the Committee on Foreign Affairs had fully considered the subject, and that their report would be presented for the consideration of the House.

SPAIN—PRIM ON THE SITUATION. From the N. Y. Herald. Since Monday last week the Spanish Cortes have been formally occupied in discussion relative to the future occupancy of the throne. It does not appear that the discussions have resulted in any satisfactory settlement. The statement of Prim, made in the Cortes on Saturday, that the Government had sought a candidate for the throne, but thus far in vain, clearly shows that the throne question is as much a perplexity today as it has been any time these last nineteen months.

THE NATURALIZATION BILL. From the N. Y. Tribune. The fear which we expressed for the fate of the Naturalization bill has been very nearly realized. It has been rescued from utter failure, but only the form with little force remains to it. The diverse and sectional interests which opposed the original bill and would have smothered it in the House had it been put on its passage have consented to a substitute which will have little strength in practice, though it may be well enough in purpose.

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need, it will have to be submitted to him for his approval, and his defense of his policy would be placed before the country with greater dignity and effect in a veto message. If no such bill or resolution should be passed, he will remain as free as he is now to act on his own judgment. Nothing but a consciousness that he is weak with the people could have hurried him into the indiscretion of attempting to refute the report of a Congressional committee whose substance he knows only by hearsay. It is not for him, but for the House, to supervise the action of its committees; and even the House does not go behind a committee and criticize a report before it is presented.

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found willing to be a royal figurehead, and that one is obnoxious to the Spanish nation. This, however, is not all. The Spanish people are worn out with uncertainty and baffled hopes. The Spanish treasury is empty. Spanish bills will nowhere be discounted. Spanish trade is all but dead. Spanish colonies are sick of their connection with the mother country. Spanish nobles who have been filling the posts of duty seek to be relieved, and the only Spaniard who has been deemed worthy of royal honors politely but firmly declines them. In these circumstances it is that Prim tells the Spanish people that a king may be found in three months. Buckle did say hard things of Spain, but the worst things that Buckle ever said have been established by facts since Buckle's death. Was ever nation in such wretched plight? Was ever revolution so fruitless? Was ever a people so disappointed and disappointed? Twenty months of killing uncertainty, and no hope of deliverance! Search the whole field of history and find such an example. We seek in vain.

What is the cause of this failure? We have answered the question often before. We answer it again. We might put our answer in two words, and say—"Spanish impotence." This is the true answer. It is necessary, however, to be more particular. The resurrection of Spain has been found impossible because the people are held down by the Church and by the army, and because men are wanting to head the people in attempting to break those bonds asunder and to carry away the cords. The Church will not accept the new constitution, and three-fourths of Spain at least swear by the Church. The army of Spain is a blind machine, but it is strong enough to make peasants and unarmed citizens tremble. And during all those months no man has come to the surface prominently but one, and Prim seems to be without that force of character, wanting in that kind of nerve, which makes revolutions lastingly triumphant. A Caesar, a Cromwell, a Napoleon would lead Spain into new paths, would arouse her ancient spirit and give her a new lease of life. But no Caesar, no Cromwell, no Napoleon comes to the rescue. Prim is the only man who has had the opportunity, but his courage has not mounted with the occasion. Until the Spanish Church is broken down and the people enjoy intellectual and spiritual liberty, and until the Spanish army changes its character and ceases to be a blind, unreasoning machine, we have little hope of Spanish resurrection. If there is any hope at all it lies in the possibility of the appearance of some patriot and hero who shall have the pluck to dare and the genius to lead. If some such man does not now appear it will not surprise us to learn that he who now commands the army and who has failed to break the Church and to actually become the Monk of the Spanish revolution. This will be lamentable, but anything is preferable to the present state of things. Unless you give him the power you cannot blame the bad-riden man who will not rise and walk. Such is poor Spain.

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